

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3292

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, MO, US, PDIP
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES DESIRE TO MEET
WITH THE SECRETARY

1. DURING VERY FRIENDLY MEETING ALONE ON JUNE 13 WHEN I
PRESENTED YOUR THINKING ON POST-INVASION REFORM IN ZAIRE, FOREIGN
MINISTER LARAKI ONCE AGAIN SAID HE HOPED TO MEET WITH YOU. HE
SUGGESTED AN INVITATION FOR HIM TO COME TO WASHINGTON OR A BRIEF,
TECHNICAL STOP BY YOU IN MOROCCO ON YOUR WAY TO OR FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST. DESPITE PHIL HABIB'S VISIT HERE LAST APRIL, WHICH
HE TERMED HELPFUL IN GIVING KING HASSAN AN INITIAL, AUTHORITATIVE
GLIMPSE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, LARAKI SAID THERE WAS STILL A
LINGERING DOUBT AS TO JUST WHERE MOROCCO STANDS IN U.S. EYES, AND
WHERE U.S. STANDS REGARDING THE SOVIETS IN AFRICA. HE IS CONCERNED
MORE ABOUT MORAL THAN MATERIAL SUPPORT. ON THIS POINT HE
SPECIFICALLY SAID HE WAS NOT SEEKING OUR MORAL SUPPORT ON THE
SAHARA QUESTION, WHICH AS FAR AS GOM IS CONCERNED IS "SETTLED",
BUT ON HIS COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT AFRICA FROM FALLING UNDER
SOVIET DOMINATION. HE CITED OUR INITIAL RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT
THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE IN ZAIRE, AND MORE RECENTLY OUR SILENCE
ON KING HASSAN'S CONTACTS WITH MOROCCAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES ABROAD
AND HIS WELCOMING OF ISRAELI VISITORS AS EFFORTS TO INJECT
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MODERATION INTO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM.

2. AS YOU KNOW, KING HASSAN HAD ALSO HOPED YOU COULD MAKE A
"TECHNICAL" STOP DURING YOUR FEBRUARY MIDDLE EAST TRIP. ON
MARCH 15 HE RENEWED HIS INVITATION TO HAVE YOU VISIT HIM BRIEFLY
ON ONE OF YOUR FUTURE TRIPS ABROAD TO BEGIN A DIRECT DIALOGUE.

3. COMMENT: THE LAST SECRETARY OF STATE TO SEE THE KING WAS DR. KISSINGER IN OCTOBER, 1974 DURING A FOUR-HOUR STOP IN RABAT. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE PHASING OUT OUR NAVAL PRESENCE, WHICH IS RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS MOROCCO NO MATTER HOW OFTEN WE REITERATE TECHNICAL REASONS FOR THE CLOSING, I BELIEVE PERSONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN YOU AND HASSAN RATHER THAN YOU AND LARAKI IN WASHINGTON, WOULD MAKE THE RECORD CLEAR ON OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO AND REINFORCE CONFIDENCE IN OUR ROLE AS A WORLD LEADER. SUCH A MEETING COULD HAVE FURTHER POSITIVE EFFECT OF KEEPING MOROCCO FULLY ABREAST OF OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, IN WHICH KING HAS REPEATEDLY OFFERED HIS HELP. IN VIEW OF RECENT ATTENTION GIVEN TO AGWERIA (SUCH AS YOUR PARIS MEETING WITH BOUTEFLIKA, LETTERS TO BOUTEFLIKA AND BOUMEDIENNE, CLARK CLIFFORD'S PRIVATE, BUT WELL PUBLICIZED VISIT TO ALGIERS), I WOULD THINK YOU COULD FEEL FREE TO SEE KING HASSAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI WITHOUT AFFECTING OUR DIALOGUE WITH ALGERIA.

ANDERSON

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